

In re: Raymond E. Ideker
Serial No.: 10/615,528
Filed: July 8, 2003
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing includes a new Figure 6 of a flowchart that illustrates method embodiments for reducing an occurrence of fibrillation in a heart.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the detailed examination evidenced by the Official Action mailed August 15, 2006 (hereinafter "the Official Action"). In response, Applicant has amended the Application as follows:

1. Rejected Claim 19 has been cancelled.
2. Rejected Claims 20, 22, and 23 have been amended to depend from allowed Claim 21. Accordingly, these claims are now in condition for allowance.
3. Rejected independent Claim 27 has been amended to include the essential recitations of allowable Claims 33-35, which have been cancelled. Accordingly, independent Claim 27 and rejected dependent Claims 31 and 32 are now in condition for allowance.
4. Rejected independent Claim 62 has been amended to include the essential recitations of allowable dependent Claims 68-70, which have been cancelled. Accordingly, independent Claim 62 and rejected dependent Claims 63-67 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The Objections To The Claims Have Been Addressed By Amendments Herein

Claims 24, 30, 34, 59, 65, 70, 95, and 101 stand objected to over minor typographical errors therein. *Official Action, page 3*. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 24, 30, 59, 65, 95, and 101 to recite "wherein the reentrant region is characterized by a closed pathway of the tissue of the heart" as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, all objections to the claims have been addressed by amendments suggested by the Examiner and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal thereof.

The New Figure 6 Addresses The Objections To The Drawings.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). *Official Action*, page 2. In response, Applicant has added a new Figure 6 which reflects many of the detailed recitations found in the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the new Figure 6 does not add new matter as this material is supported by, for example, allowable Claim 21.

The Official Action also objected to "means for inducing fibrillation" in the claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In response, Applicant respectfully notes that Figure 5 shows a processor circuit with electrodes 500a-g connected to the heart 100. In operation, as described in reference to Figure 5:

In some embodiments according to the present invention, electrodes can be attached to the heart 100 as shown in Figure 5. As shown in Figure 5, electrodes 500a-g can be applied to various regions of the heart 100 which can be used to monitor activity in the heart 100, for example, after fibrillation is induced. In some embodiments according to the present invention, the monitoring of the various regions can be provided by moving one or more of the electrodes to the desired regions using, for example, a catheter. A processor circuit 505 can be used to process electrical signals provided thereto via the electrodes 500a-g to determine which region is the fastest activating region. Subsequently, a defibrillator circuit, such as an implantable defibrillator, can be electrically coupled to the region determined to be the fastest activating region. *Patent Application Serial No. 10/615,528, page 12, lines 7-17.*

As shown above by the above-cited passage from the application, the processor circuit and electrodes can be used to induce fibrillation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to these recitations.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has amended/cancelled many of the pending claims as suggested by the Examiner, thereby placing the remaining pending claims in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant has added a new Figure 6 to meet the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections/rejections to the pending claims have been overcome and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance in due course.

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If any informal matters arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

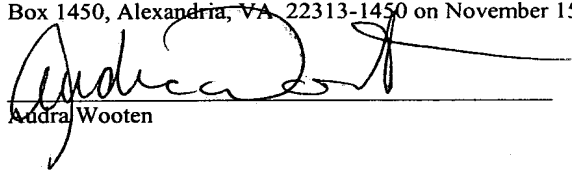


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 15, 2006.



Audra Wooten